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CHINESE SPLENDOUR.



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Original Communications.

SOCIAL DOINGS IN CHINA.

A NEW and most important chapter in the history of mankind has been opened to us by the late war with the Celestial Empire. Instead of continuing, as they were for centuries, wrapped up in arrogant notions of their own measureless superiority, and treating all Englishmen as barbarians hardly entitled to be regarded as fellow mortals, the Chinese now meet us on terms of equality. To the terror inspired by our arms, the most cordial good will appears to have succeeded. No longer do they tremble to hear of the advance of the British, no more are Chinese parents seen putting their offspring and themselves to death, that they may not encounter the greater horrors of falling into the hands of the English invaders; they now look up to us as friends, as superiors, and are too happy to adopt our ideas and usages.

The free intercourse which must soon take place between the two empires will make us intimately acquainted with many of their peculiarities, of which we have heretofore had but imperfect information. With us their former stately reserve is fast wearing off. A letter from Hong Kong, published within the last week, gives an entertaining picture of a late festival. The writer says:—

"At about five o'clock in the afternoon the British officers met at the Government house in full dress (thermometer 100), all the troops, officials, and public being present to witness the ratification of the treaty of peace, which was done in great form, under salutes from the forts and ships. The Chinese did not seem to care about it. When dinner came we sat down in white jackets, about fifty. The Commissioners appeared quite at their ease. They drank an enormous quantity of wine; chatted, laughed, and finished every glass, turning it over to show that it was empty, and helping themselves from the decanters. Old Keying, the Chief Commissioner, must have taken 50 large glasses of wine at least. When dinner was removed the Queen and Emperor of China were drunk in one toast, with three times three. We then drank to Keying's health, who would not be done out of his glass, but drank too. He then gave us a Chinese song—such noises. What do you think of the Emperor's uncle singing a song? After this he called upon the Governor, Sir H. Pottinger, who gave us an English song; Wang, the second Commissioner, gave us another Chinese one, and called on another Englishman, and then the old Tartar General, whose performance surpasses all description: such a collection of noises I never heard before. He then called on

Lord Saltoun, who gave us a jolly song, when old Keying commenced again: and so passed the evening till near 11 o'clock, the old fellow taking wine enough for six at least, and walking off pretty steady."

Sir Henry and Lord Saltoun had no occasion to teach the Emperor's uncle "to drink deep ere he departed."

A letter from Sir Henry Pottinger mentions other facts of interest connected with the same entertainment. When the Commissioners met in the drawing-room, the attention of Keying rested on the miniature portraits of the members of Sir Henry's family; and the Chinese grandee preferred the singular request, that he might be allowed to adopt the eldest son of the English Envoy as his own. He pressed his suit (which was at first evaded by Sir Henry) with great earnestness; and on Sir Henry saying, "the education of the youth must first be attended to," he begged, when that should be completed, that he might be sent out to him in China. In the meantime he desired to retain his portrait and that of Lady Pottinger, which he held up to his head, an act which in China is deemed a mark of great honour. He further gave the British Plenipotentiary the state dress which he wore, and which he informed him had been given to his father by the Emperor Kien Long, who reigned in China half a century ago. A sword, presented to him by Sir Henry, Keying received with great marks of satisfaction. He immediately wore it by his side, and could not be induced to put it away during the whole of the festive scene in which he acted so conspicuous a part.

Hitherto they have been very jealous of permitting their ladies to roam. A female was exhibited in London, fifteen or twenty years ago, who stated that she had got away from her native country, China, by stealth, and if she were to return, her flight would be punished with death. Her feet were as small as those of an infant, and her finger nails, which were said never to have been cut, were nearly a foot long, and in form resembled a marrow spoon. Possibly, since in politics China at length recognises the *jus gentium*, in other affairs a more liberal course will be pursued, and Celestial beauties may not disdain to visit England. Their attire is stated to be very rich and fanciful. Peacocks' feathers, worn on the head, are among the auxiliaries to their charms.

The cuts which embellish our present number give correct representations of Chinese costume in high life. From these it will be seen that glyphography can present figures as effectively as buildings. Several artists of eminence have taken up the new process, and are now labouring on their own designs.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

LETTER V.

Nor only are changes continually taking place on the surface of the earth, for the purpose of renewing the expended soils, and supplying food for succeeding races of vegetable beings, but also in the air above and around us most important changes are constantly going on to the same end. These natural operations are so simple in their order, so mighty in their results, so unchanging in their combinations, that no one, however dead to the harmonious beauties of creation, can contemplate them without admiration and astonishment. In Nature's great laboratory there is no useless expenditure of material; and where man, in the blindness of ignorance, once saw *but* contingencies, or the production of useless, or even deleterious compounds, chemistry has already taught him that even in the fulfilment of the most ordinary duties of the animal economy, in the involuntary process even of respiration itself, there is an end and aim to be accomplished beyond the mere wants of the animal thus breathing; nay, the very wants which may be considered artificial, and which teach us to warm our habitations and our persons by means of fires, are rendered subservient by nature to a great and wise purpose.

In order that these various changes may be understood, we shall proceed to the consideration of the chemical constitution of atmospheric air.

The air we breathe is composed essentially of only two gases, the other bodies found there being accidental products and impurities. The constituents of air are nitrogen and oxygen. Every hundred parts of dry air contain seventy-nine parts of *nitrogen* and twenty-one of *oxygen*. This latter element is the only vital portion of air, the only supporter of animal life. In fact, the negative state of nitrogen, as a supporter of *vitality*, is well pointed out by the name given to it by many of the continental chemists, who term it *azote*, from α , *privative*, and $\zeta\omega\gamma$, *life*. However, we must not forget to state that although it will not, in its separate state, support respiration, or its kindred process of combustion, yet it serves an important end, as a diluter of the stimulating element oxygen, thus rendering it much more adapted to the ordinary wants of the animal economy.

Let us now proceed to consider the changes which take place in the atmosphere during respiration, especially in reference to the production of the food of plants.

When an animal inspires, a quantity of atmospheric air is taken into the lungs; but as the nitrogen of the air is not required, it is taught instinctively to reject

that portion and retain merely the oxygen. This element, remarkable for the facility with which it unites with other bodies, combines electively with the carbon of the human body, thus producing the compound called carbonic acid, and also with hydrogen, to form the vapour of water. These products are expelled from the mouth, in an invisible form, but may be detected in a most simple and satisfactory manner. That water is given off from the lungs may be proved by breathing on a piece of cold glass, which is dimmed by it. On a cold frosty morning the vapour is condensed by the atmosphere, and we see the fluid pouring off in immense quantities from the mouth of man, and of the inferior animals. That carbonic acid is also a product of respiration may be readily proved by breathing through a tube into lime-water. The presence of carbonic acid renders the fluid milky, owing to the formation of carbonate of lime. The quantity of this substance, so fruitful a source of nutriment to plants, which is given off from the lungs, is immense. A healthy man gives off, in twenty-four hours, no less than forty thousand cubic inches; and as this gas is composed of carbon or charcoal and oxygen, in the proportion of six of the former to sixteen of the latter, we find that upwards of eleven ounces of pure charcoal are daily expelled by the mouth. It has been calculated that even so small a bird as a pigeon gives off at least ninety-six grains of charcoal in the same period of time.

During combustion, accompanied by flame, exactly the same changes occur, and the same products are given off.

Carbonic acid is the product of all burning bodies containing carbon, whether those bodies be of animal or vegetable origin; and as this gas is very poisonous to animals, we may at once perceive the imprudence of allowing combustion to proceed in confined apartments. This is especially the case when the fuel is charcoal; for then the production of the mephitic vapours is so rapid as soon to produce death. How often have we read of suicidal and accidental death from this cause!

Again, water is the invariable product of combustion, accompanied by flame; for the presence of flame is indicative of hydrogen, which element during its combustion always combines with oxygen to form water; hence the term signifies, "to generate water."

The water thus formed during combustion and respiration, as well as by evaporation, and the decomposition of organic matter, ascends into the atmosphere, there to remain until again required for fertilizing purposes. Thus the air, even on the brightest and sunniest day, contains

at least one per cent.; that is, every hundred gallons of air contain at least one gallon of watery vapour. Changes of temperature, or electrical changes, cause condensation to ensue; the fluid passes from its gaseous condition to the state of clouds, which consist of vesicles, or envelopes of water containing air, resembling soap bubbles, except in bulk; and eventually further condensation of the watery vapour results in the fall of rain, or dew, or snow, as the case may be, and thus it becomes an important agent in the formation of soils, in the solution of salts, about to be absorbed by the plant, and in rendering up to the vegetable two of its most important elements, oxygen and hydrogen.

The carbonic acid, also the product of combustion, respiration, &c., and which, if allowed to remain in the atmosphere, would soon render it irrespirable, is soon decomposed by vegetables, and its carbon absorbed; or it is taken up in solution by the descending rain, and carried into the earth, to be applied to the root of the plant, or to the formation of the various carbonates.

But the air is not only decomposed during the foregoing processes, but even the winged lightning, as it plays among the overhanging clouds, is also an instrument in the formation of new combinations of the atmospheric elements, for the sake of the vegetable world. We speak advisedly when we say "for the sake of the vegetable world;" for the care of the Creator is over all his works, and every portion of organised life lives and has its being in accordance with his great provisional laws. It is also a pleasing reflection that the electric fluid, so terrible in its career, should travel as the messenger of that Being who has, even in this phenomenon, a merciful purpose to serve.

The changes produced by lightning in the air are the following: the watery vapour is decomposed, and is resolved into its constituent elements, oxygen and hydrogen. The elementary portions of the air itself are also separated; while the same mighty agent which thus decomposes, acts as well as a "promoting affinity," or "attraction," and new and important compounds are formed. Thus the nitrogen combines with oxygen to form nitric acid, a compound of

Nitrogen 14, or one atom; }
and } Nitric Acid.

Oxygen 40, or five atoms. }
At the same time ammonia is formed by the union of nitrogen with the hydrogen of the decomposed water; thus—

Nitrogen 14, or one atom; }
and } Ammonia.

Hydrogen 3, or 3 atoms.

The nitric acid then combines with the nascent ammonia, and the salt called ni-

trate of ammonia is formed, which, being taken up in solution by the rain water, is conveyed to the plant, to enrich and invigorate it. Thus, in the tropics, where thunder-storms are frequent and violent, vegetation is infinitely more luxuriant than elsewhere; while the soils abound with the "nitrates" formed by these various atmospheric changes.

In a series of experiments performed at the Royal Polytechnic Institution some time ago, Dr Ryan distinctly found nitrate of ammonia in jars of air, impregnated with watery vapour, and through which a quick succession of electric sparks from the colossal machine had been allowed to pass. These experiments, performed at the suggestion of Mr Johnston, the celebrated agricultural chemist, sufficiently pointed out the uses of lightning, and the changes produced by it.

MARCH OF COMFORT.—WATER FLANNEL.

"A FRIEND put into my hand the other day," writes a correspondent of the 'Athenæum,' "a yard or two of what seemed a coarse kind of flannel, grey on one side, greenish on the other, and a full quarter of an inch thick, which had been thrown up by the river Trent, and washed ashore in vast sheets. It was pronounced to be a manufactured article, and so it was, but by the hand of Nature. It brought to mind a similar production, of which some acres had been discovered in Berkshire about three years since, when it was said that clothing had been made from it by the country people, who took it for a sort of cotton wadding, fallen from Heaven.

This substance, when handled, is harsh to the touch, although composed of finest threads. To the naked eye it presents no character by which it may be known from any coarse and loosely woven cloth. The microscope reveals its nature. It is then found to consist of myriads of jointed threads, whose joints are compressed alternately sideways and vertically; they are here and there transparent, but for the most part opaque, and rough to the eye. The white side is more opaque than the other, and more unexamenable; but if a little muriatic acid be added to the water in which the fragments of water flannel float, copious bubbles of air appear, which are much increased in quantity by the application of the heat of a spirit lamp. By degrees they disappear. They were bubbles of carbonic acid, extricated by the action of the muriatic acid on a coating of carbonate of lime, with which the plant is more or less completely invested. If, after this operation, the threads are again examined, the contents of the joints become visible; in the green parts of the flannel they are filled with an irregular mass of green mat-

ter, in the white part with myriads of globules, intermixed with a shapeless substance. The globules are the seeds. If a little iodine is then given to the flannel, it is readily absorbed, and the contents, shapeless matter, globules, and all, become deep violet, showing that all this substance is starch.

"Hence it appears that the water flannel is a microscopical plant, composed of jointed threads, secreting carbonate of lime on their surface, and forming seeds composed of starch within them. And when we consider that the joints are smaller than the eye can detect, while each contains from 50 to 100 seeds, it may easily be conceived with what rapidity such a plant is multiplied; and, as their contents consist to a great extent of starch, the most readily organizable of all vegetable materials, the means of growth with which the plant is provided are far more ample than anything we know of in the higher orders of the vegetable kingdom.

"This curious substance has of late years attracted the attention of people in various parts of England, and the inquiries that have been made of naturalists have been so incorrectly answered that it is full time to put an end to the mistakes about it. In the year 1840 the Royal Agricultural Society submitted specimens of it to the late Librarian of the Linnean Society and the Secretary of the Royal Dublin Society. Mr Don declared it to be the *Oscillatoria corium*—one of the half-animal half-vegetable productions which form entangled layers in the bottom of streams in the colder parts of England. But it is difficult to conceive what could have given rise to this statement; for the water flannel has no one of the peculiarities of *Oscillatoria corium*, which, moreover, is glossy and slimy. Mr Hardyman reported it to be a water-plant called *Conferva sordida*, or, as he called it (*Hibernicæ*), a kind of fresh-water sea-weed; and he was nearly, though not quite, right; for it is really the *Conferva crispa* of Dillwyn, or the *C. capillaris* of Linnaeus, known for years for the singular property it has of forming beds of rough, entangled curling threads.

"And for what purposes, we may ask, is this small plant intended? Is it for food for man or animals, or for decorating the waters in which it grows, or for adding to wealth or comfort in any way? It is hard to answer questions of this sort. That it has its use we may rest assured; but whether for us or our fellow-creatures it is scarcely within my province to determine. One quarter of its weight consists of starch and azotised substance; that is to say, of the nutritious matter that gives bread its value. Why, then, might not the water flannel be converted into food in times of scarcity? It would certainly be far better than the

bread of bark and straw which has been sometimes used."

This account is so extraordinary that we hardly know whether we ought to treat it seriously. To see a modern *Musidora*, while taking her bath, provide herself with a flannel robe is certainly strange, but that this said garment, when done with, may be turned into bread is still more wonderful. Looking at the important discoveries that have occurred within the last half century, we see such vast additional means at our command for multiplying food, clothing, and all the necessities of life, that it is hardly too much to hope that the world, or at least this favoured portion of it, will shortly make its fortune, and want, in the absence of misconduct, be unknown before the present generation passes away.

JUDICIAL SLAUGHTER.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE A CENTURY AGO.

It has latterly been common to speak of the reign of George III as one of frightful severity; as if by him executions had been wantonly multiplied. This is not the fact. That the punishment of death was in his time much more frequently inflicted than it is now, cannot be denied. William IV abated the number of capital punishments, once so mournfully frequent, and during the present reign still greater mildness has prevailed.

But it is due to the memory of George III to say that while he sat on the throne the march of humanity had more than commenced. During a very considerable portion of his reign so many as five or six sufferers was a very extraordinary sight. In the days of his grandfather, George II, the case was different. The reader will be amazed at the evidences afforded by a single year, and that a year not distinguished by any remarkable outbreak, as exhibited in the following notices extracted from the 'London Magazine' for 1750:—

"*Wednesday, Feb. 7.*—This day the nine following malefactors, condemned the two last sessions (Hammond having obtained a respite, Lidd being pardoned, and the rest to be transported for life), were executed at Tyburn, viz. J. Edwards, for breaking open and robbing the house of Mr R. Fleming; Pat Dempsey, for assaulting and robbing Mr Evan Saxe of his watch, &c.; Edward Dempsey, for assaulting and robbing Mr Thomas Brown of a gold watch, diamond ring, &c.; R. Hixon, for the highway; James Aldridge and Thomas Good, for divers robberies; Lawrence Savage, for robbing Mr Constantine Gagahan of a silver watch; with Dennis Branham and William Purnell, for robbing Mr Whiffin in Shoreditch of a hat and wig. The criminals set out from Newgate about nine in the morning, in four carts, which (pursuant to ancient custom, but by a new order made by a vigilant city magistrate)

were double guarded, all the proper officers being commanded to attend. The procession closed with the two under sheriffs (who had never attended an execution before) holding their white wands. Endeavours were used to get the carts to stop, in order for the criminals to drink, but this indulgence was prudently refused them. It was discovered, about Turnstile, that one of the criminals was untied, but he was soon made fast again. They behaved with great decency at Tyburn. The two Dempseys and another Irishman died Roman Catholics. Near the gallows stood a hackney coach, in which was a well-dressed young woman, accompanied by two gentlemen. She wept bitterly, and afterwards took one of the executed criminals into the coach. Most of the bodies of the rest were delivered to their friends. The great decency and regularity with which this execution was performed, is a second proof that a military force is quite unnecessary, whenever the civil power will exert its just and proper authority. Our ancestors executed the laws without an unnatural aid, and so may we, if we will but employ the safe and laudable methods so wisely ordained by them."

In the following month a like tragedy was acted:

"*Monday, March 26.*—Eleven of the malefactors, condemned last sessions at the Old Bailey, were executed at Tyburn, viz., Jones, Carbold, Young, Scott, Gawen, Doe, Russel, Busbey, Oldfield, Roney, and Bastow. The rest were reprieved for transportation (see the seventh day). Jones and Young rode (pinioned together) in the first cart; a precaution judged absolutely necessary, as the former was a great favourite of a desperate gang, who had rescued him out of the Gatehouse; and the latter had like to have escaped out of his cell in Newgate, he having sawed off his irons, &c. The other nine criminals followed in three carts, three in each. Mr Sheriff Janssen attended, preceded by the two under sheriffs. There were between two and three hundred constables, with their several high constables, viz., Mr Carne, for Westminster; Mr Welch, for Holborn; Mr Adlington, for the Tower Hamlets; and Mr Harford, for Finsbury division. The attendance of the two last and of their posses had never been required before. The several carts are lined by constables within, and by civil officers on horseback without; and no persons, either on horseback or on foot, suffered to mix with them; by which means the whole proceeded regularly and without interruption. During the procession, and at the place of execution, great numbers of the populace either threw away, or gave up (upon their being required to do it) their bludgeons; a remarkable example of the influence (superior to any other) of the civil power, when duly exercised."

Two months afterwards thirteen more wretches suffered at the same place:

"*Wednesday, May 16.*—When the report of the eighteen condemned malefactors was made to the Lords of the Regency, Capt. Clark was respited *sine die*, and Thrift the

hangman for a fortnight: Andrews was ordered to be transported for life, and Readhead for fourteen years. Vaughan died in Newgate, and the remaining thirteen were this day executed at Tyburn. Nunnan, for counterfeiting the coin, was drawn in a sledge, the executioner riding with him; and the other twelve were conveyed in four carts. Mr Sheriff Janssen, with five high constables, and a very great number of their officers, attended the procession, which proceeded from Newgate to Tyburn, with the utmost decency. There being, at the place of execution, crowds of soldiers and sailors, to receive some of the bodies, they were ordered by the sheriff (on the sailors, &c. having behaved peaceably) to be delivered to them, after being cut down by the executioner. By this prudent regulation, the barbarous custom of fighting for the bodies after execution, and the many cruel mischiefs arising from thence, were prevented. Benjamin Campbell Hamilton, a boy of sixteen, behaved with great indecency all the way to Tyburn, and even there. John Groves protested at the gallows that the goods for which he suffered had been lent him by the prosecutrix, in order for him to get a shirt of his out of pawn, in which he designed to mount guard the day after the pretended robbery. 'Tis assured that the sheriffs never had the least thoughts of applying to their own use any property which might happen to be found of the above mentioned Capt. Clark, but merely to assert their right to it, as a perquisite belonging to their office."

In these days what would be thought of a procession of three vehicles, filled with sufferers, passing up Holborn to the place of execution! The following we add to show how cheaply human life was then valued.

"*Wednesday, Aug. 8.*—This day were executed at Tyburn Henry Web and Ely Smith, for robbing Henry Smith in Bream's buildings; Benjamin Chamberlain, for robbing Mr Powell in Chancery lane; Thomas Crawford, for robbing Capt. Harris, in East Smithfield; with Samuel Cook and James Tyler, for robbing farmer Darnel near Hackney. They were carried in two carts from Newgate, at eight in the morning. Mr Sheriff Janssen attended with the high constables; as likewise did the city marshal (for the first time) with his officers, as far as Holborn bars. Most of these malefactors discovered an unconcern which no ways suited their condition. The procession went on with great order, and the execution was over by half an hour past ten. Crawford, who had shown great resolution in his way to the gallows, turned exceedingly pale when the rope was about his neck. The bodies of the criminals were delivered to their friends; three hearses attending for that purpose. The regulations made in the Sheriffalty of Mr Alderman Janssen have been productive of two excellent effects (among others): First, the reviving the former decency and solemnity of executions: Secondly, the restoring the civil power to its ancient use and lustre. May future magistrates copy the example here set them!

"It is remarkable, that the above six malefactors suffered for robbing their several prosecutors of no more than six shillings.

"Little villains must submit to fate,
That great ones may enjoy the world in state." GARTH.

The same volume contains further notices of the same dismal character. In the next group is a sort of Macheath of the time.

"Wednesday, October 3, 1750.—Twelve of the sixteen malefactors, who were condemned at the last sessions at the Old Bailey, among whom were William Smith for forgery (who was also charged with divers other forgeries) and James Maclean, were this day executed at Tyburn, pursuant to their sentence. Smith, who was the son of a clergyman in Ireland, after he was haltered in the Press-yard, went to a bench, and kneeling down, made a devout extempore prayer, acknowledging his crimes, dying in charity with all mankind, and hoping for forgiveness at the great tribunal. Maclean was the son of a dissenting minister in Ireland, and has a brother of the same persuasion now living at the Hague, a worthy and pious man, as appears by his excellent and most affecting letters, published in Dr Allen's account, one to his unhappy brother and the other to a friend. Both Maclean and Smith had been educated in virtuous and religious principles, but unhappily counteracted them; though the force of them returned to their misery, and made them both, as is to be hoped, sincere penitents. These twelve malefactors were carried from Newgate to Tyburn in four carts, Maclean, Smith, and Saunders being in the last. Maclean, when he came to the gallows, looked up and said, with a sigh, Oh Jesus! He took no notice of the populace, but was truly attentive to his devotion, and spoke not at all, except to the constable who first took him up, who desired to shake him by the hand, and hoped he would forgive him; which he said he did, and hoped that God would bless his friends, forgive his enemies, and receive his soul. Smith was a man of parts, and had a very gentlemanlike appearance: he was very devout, as were all the others, and died very penitent. No soldiers attended at the above execution; the excellent regulations made (in this and other respects) during the late sheriffalty, having rendered the aid of the military power quite unnecessary. The following lines were wrote on Smith's going to execution.

"With talents blest to charm the mind and eye,
What pity thou, at Tyburn tree, must die!
Cover'd with crimes, no king cou'd well forgive;
What pity so complete a wretch shou'd live."

"Wednesday, November 7, 1751.—The five following malefactors were executed at Tyburn, viz. Thomas Reynolds, Thomas Pryor, George Robins, George Anderson, alias Jeffery Everett, who were condemned the last sessions at the Old Bailey, and William Riley, condemned the preceding sessions. They all, except Everett, behaved in a manner becoming their unhappy circumstances; but he seemed hardened and unconcerned, and, as by several symptoms he appeared to

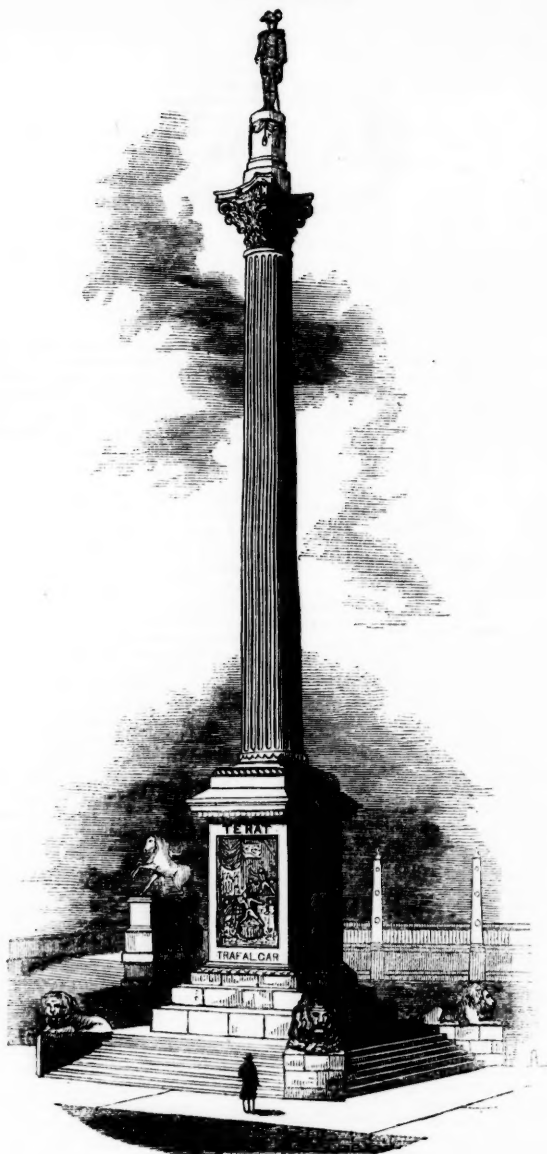
be a desperate fellow, he was carried to the place of execution handcuffed. The rest who were condemned the last sessions were reprieved for transportation. Reynolds, executed for enlisting men into foreign service, declared in the Press-yard, whilst his irons were knocking off, that he went to be hanged with as much satisfaction as if he was going to be married, for that he was innocent of the crime for which he suffered, and freely forgave his prosecutor."

THE CEMETERY.

(By the American Poet Bryant.)

I GAZED upon the glorious sky
And the green mountains round,
And thought, that when I came to lie
Within the silent ground,
'Twere pleasant, that in flowery June,
When brooks sent up a cheerful tune,
And groves a joyous sound,
The sexton's hand, my grave to make,
The rich, green, mountain-turf should break.
There, through the long, long summer hours,
The golden light should lie,
And thick young herbs and groups of flowers
Stand in their beauty by.
The oriole should build and tell
His love-tale close beside my cell;
The idle butterfly
Should rest him there, and there be heard
The housewife bee and humming bird.
And what if cheerful shouts, at noon,
Come from the village sent,
Or songs of maids, beneath the moon,
With fairy laughter blent;
And what if, in the evening light,
Betrothed lovers walk in sight
Of my low monument:
I would the lovely scene around
Might know no sadder sight nor sound.
I know, I know I should not see
The season's glorious show,
Nor would its brightness shine for me,
Nor its wild music flow;
But, if around my place of sleep
The friends I love should come to weep,
They might not haste to go.
Soft airs, and song, and light and bloom,
Should keep them lingering by my tomb.

Mining in the Pyrenees.—A gentleman, lately from the Pyrenees, says—"The mines opened near the famous Port de Venasque, to within a few feet of the summit of the extraordinary natural obelisk called the Pic de Picade, are the remains of a gallery about two hundred feet long, piercing a rich vein of lead ore, supposed to have been executed by the Romans, as it is known that the latter were acquainted with the mineral wealth, of the Pyrenean mountains. The situation of this shaft, occupying eight hours of almost perpendicular climbing to attain it, give some idea of the difficulties attendant upon the execution of the work. The mines, which are at the base of the Pic have only been opened during the summer, and were yielding 1 oz. of silver in 13 lbs. of lead."



NELSON'S PILLAR.

We give this week a correct representation of the column just completed in honour of the hero of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar. Want of space compels us to postpone till our next some particulars, interesting as a record connected with the fine arts, of this national monument.



Arms. Quarterly, first and fourth, az., three cross crosslets, fitchée, issuant from as many crescents, ar.

Crest. A dexter hand, couped above the wrist, and erect, ppr., grasping a crescent.

Supporters. Two parrots, ppr.

Motto. "I hope to speed."

THE NOBLE HOUSE OF CATHCART.

THIS is an ancient Scottish family. Reinaldus de Kethcart was a subscribing witness to a grant to Alan, the son of Walter Dapifer Regis, of the patronage of the church of Kethcart to the monastery of Paisley, in 1178. His lineal descendant, Sir Alan Cathcart, was distinguished for his valour at the battle of Loudoun hill, in 1307. His worth is thus celebrated:—

"A knight that then was in his rout,
Worthy, and withal stalwart and stout,
Courteous and fair, and of good fame,
Sir Alan Cathcart was his name."

He was succeeded by his son Alan de Cathcart, and the great-grandson of the latter was created Baron Cathcart, by James II of Scotland, in 1447. He was Warden of the West Marshes, and on his death was succeeded by his grandson, John, the second Lord Cathcart. He had one son, known as Alan, Master of Cathcart, who "died the death of fame" at Flodden field in 1513. His son succeeded to the title of the grandfather. He married the eldest daughter of Lord Sempill, and lost his life in the battle of Pinkie, fought on the 10th of September, 1547. The son of this nobleman, the grandson, the great-grandson, and the great-great-grandson, all of the same name, succeeded in due course to the honours and estates. The last dying in 1732, the title came to his son Charles, the eighth Baron. He was distinguished as a soldier, and was in the battle of Sheriffmuir. Several important offices in the Court of George II were afterwards held by him. In 1740 he embarked for America, having been appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the British forces there, but died on the voyage on the 20th of December. He had been married in 1718 to Marion, the only child of Sir John Schaw, of Greenock, by whom he had a son and two daughters. Of these the elder, Eleanor, married Sir John Houston, and Mary Anne, Lord Napier. He afterwards married Mrs Sabine, widow of Joseph Sabine, Esq., of Tring. By her

he had no issue. He was succeeded by his son Charles, who married, July 24th, 1753, Jane, daughter of Lord Archibald Hamilton, and granddaughter of William, fourth Duke of Hamilton. He served as Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Cumberland at Fontenoy, fought April 30th, 1745; attained the rank of Lieutenant-General in the army, and was invested with the Order of the Thistle. He died July 21st, 1776, and was succeeded by the present peer, William Schaw, who was born in August, 1755. He married, April 10th, 1779, Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Elliot, Esq., Governor of New York. His lordship entered the army, and became a Major-General in 1794, and Lieutenant-General in 1801. He was Commander-in-Chief of the expedition sent against Copenhagen in 1807, and on his return was rewarded, Nov. 3rd, 1807, with the Baronry and Viscounty of the United Kingdom. On the 16th July, 1814, he was further advanced to the dignity of an Earl. His lordship has also served the country as Ambassador at the Court of St Petersburg. He is a General Officer in the army, Colonel of the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards, member of the Board of General Officers, a Commissioner of the Royal Military College, and Royal Military Asylum, and Vice-Admiral of Scotland.

GARDENING HINTS FOR NOVEMBER.

I.—KITCHEN-GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

In-door Department.

PINERY.—There is more danger from drips and over-watering than from the plants getting too dry, especially when bottom-heat is on the decline, and the pots not well filled with roots; these two causes soon tell on the black pines. A uniform bottom-heat, with the atmosphere rather dry, and not much on either side of 60° in the morning, will do for this month.

VINERY.—For the next six weeks a practised eye can see clearly if the plants in the late vineries have been over cropped, even should the half of the crops be already

gathered. With the best-constructed houses, and other things well managed, over-cropped vines, or weakly ones in ill-drained borders, never carry their late crops well; the least touch or speck, and away they go, and you cannot help it. Look, again, at a healthy, vigorous, young or old vine, under opposite circumstances, and you could hardly damp or injure its fruit, if you wished. If the sashes of the early vineries are off, no time should now be lost in getting them on, as, if we should get cold rains, the borders inside would be chilled too much, and thus put you under disadvantages when you begin to force. All vines that are forced should be pruned as soon as the wood is ripe.

Out-door Department.

The change of weather impels us to have all our crops and plants secured and well provided for against the winter long before real danger is at hand. You must have your mats at hand, ready to cover up in case of frost.

CAULIFLOWER.—In a short time this will be the best flower in the garden; and who would not prolong its succession? Nothing is easier than to do so with cauliflowers; pull up a quantity of them that are now fit, or nearly fit for use, and lay them in by the heels in some moist earth in a dry shed or out-house—it is too soon yet to put them down in the cellar. Look about for a dry, well-sheltered border, dung and dig it, and the first mild day plant it all over with good cauliflower plants, ready to be sheltered with hand-glasses.

CABBAGES.—If any failures have happened in the rows already planted the spaces should now be filled up with the strongest plants you have on hand.

LETTUCE and ENDIVE PLANTS may still be planted in cold frames, but the sooner the better.

ORCHARD.—Pruning may now be commenced in earnest, beginning first with the currants, then the gooseberries and raspberries; this will clear a good deal of ground to be dressed and dug in fine weather. After that apple and pear trees, &c. Look over the walls and cut away useless laterals and late growths on the peach trees; indeed, any shoot you think will not be wanted in spring, and let in the sun and air to ripen the bearing wood for next year; the leaves of peach trees are of very little use after this time, and they do much harm by shading the wood; therefore cut them off, but do not strip them off, for fear of injuring the buds. No author has recommended this, but many of the best gardeners practise it regularly.

II.—FLOWER-GARDEN AND SHRUBBERY.

In-door Department.

STOVE.—There are no plants more easy to manage in winter than stove-plants, and yet an inexperienced person may injure

them at this time sooner than any other tribe. 60° is about the lowest temperature they ought to have this month, with rather a dry atmosphere and air on all fine days, if only to sweeten the houses now that they are so full.

GREENHOUSE.—Those who have not the advantage of cold turf-pits must have crowded their greenhouses on the approach of the late frosts. Let a place be ever so small there ought to be some contrivance for sheltering half-hardy greenhouse plants late in the autumn, without crowding them into houses thus early. The Chrysanthemums and Pelargoniums ought now to occupy the best places here, and more hardy plants would be much better in pits, where rain and frost could be kept from them till the Chrysanthemums are nearly over, to make room for them in-doors.

CONSERVATORY.—From this time till next March a conservatory must be kept close, more or less, to suit forced plants, &c., while a greenhouse cannot have too much air whenever the weather is fine.

PITS and FRAMES.—Now is the time to pot all the Cape Iridaceae, with others from Mexico, Chili, &c. &c.; the whole order delights in light, open soil. The stronger Gladioli, and the like, are much benefited by the addition of one-third rotten leaf-mould, the rest peat and light loam, in equal portions, with a little sand; and the more delicate sorts do better in two-thirds sandy-peat, the rest of loam and sand in equal proportions. Mrs Loudon's beautiful book, treating on these bulbs, is indispensable to those who would excel in the cultivation of these charming plants. Tropaeolums, Hyacinths, Tulips, Narcissi, to flower late in the spring, may now be potted, and those first potted of these will now have the pots pretty well filled with roots, and may therefore be brought to a glass frame, to get up the foliage and flower-stems slowly, when a smart forcing will not much injure the bulbs.

FLOWER-GARDEN.—Take up such flower-gardening plants as you may want another year.

VAMPYRES—THEIR CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS.

EVERY age has its unaccountables and horrors. The last had its vampyrysm. That was really most marvellous, and to credulity in a more than common degree alarming. While reflecting men laughed at the stories told of vampyres, sovereigns sent officers and commissioners to inquire into their terrific proceedings, just as the late Government sent doctors to Russia to invite the cholera to England. Hungary, Poland, Silesia, Bohemia, and Moravia were the favourite scenes of their appearance and exploits. The people of

those countries, sunk in the most abject ignorance, placed implicit faith in such wonders. A vampyre haunted and tormented almost every village. Deceased fathers and mothers, who had reposed for years in their graves, appeared again at their dwellings—knocked at the doors, sat down to table in silence, ate little or nothing, sometimes nodded significantly at some unfortunate relation in token of their approaching death, struck them on the back, or sprang on their bellies or throats, and sucked draughts of blood from their veins. In general, however, this last consummation of vampyrism was left as an inference from the other facts—and the statement was, that certain men or women of the village grew pale, and gradually wasted away—blooming girls in the flower of health lost the roses from their cheeks, and sank into rapid and premature decay—then an apparition of some deceased individual was seen, and suspicion instantly fixed on him or her as the cause. The grave of the apparition was resorted to—where the corpse was invariably found fresh and well-preserved—the eyes open, or only half-closed—the face vermillion-coloured—the hair and nails long—the limbs supple and unstiffened—and the heart beating. Nothing more was necessary to fix on the body the crime of vampyrism, and to attach to it the guilt of having drained the streams of life from all the pale youths and hectic maidens in the vicinity. Some judicial forms of proceeding were, however, often observed before proceeding to inflict the last penalty of justice on the offender. Witnesses were examined as to the facts alleged—the corpse was drawn from its grave, and handled and inspected; and if the blood was found fluid in the veins, the members supple, and the flesh free from putrescence, a conviction of vampyrism passed—the executioner proceeded to amputate the head, extract the heart, or sometimes to drive a stake through it, or a nail through the temples, and then the body was burnt, and its ashes dispersed to the winds. Burning was found the only infallible mode of divorcing the spirit from the frame of these pertinacious corpses. Impalement of the heart, which had been long considered to be the means of fixing evil and vagrant spirits to the tomb, was often ineffectual. A herdsman of Blow, near Kadam, in Bohemia, on undergoing this ceremony, laughed at the executioners, and returned them many thanks for giving him a stake to defend himself against the dogs. The same night he arose to his nocturnal meal, and suffocated more persons than he had ever attacked before his impalement. He was at last exhumed and carried out of the village. On being again pierced with stakes he cried

out most lustily—sent forth blood of a brilliant crubescence—and was at last finally quelled by being burnt to cinders. This fact, with many other similar narratives, is related in a work called '*Magia Posthuma*,' by Charles Ferdinand Schertz, dedicated to Prince Charles of Lorraine, Bishop of Olmutz, and printed at Olmutz in 1706. The Rev. Pere Dom. Augustin Calmet, Abbé de Senones (Abbey, as Voltaire insinuates, of 100,000 *livres de rente*) quotes, in his grand treatise on apparitions and vampyres, an extraordinary case of vampyrism detailed in the *Glaneur Hollandois*, No. XVIII.

In a certain half-peopled canton of Hungary, near the famous Tockay, and between the river Teisse and Transylvania, the people called the Heiduques were possessed by a firm conviction of the powers of vampyres. About 1727 a certain Heiduque, an inhabitant of Medreiga, named Arnold Paul, was crushed to death under a load of hay. Thirty days afterwards four persons of the village died suddenly with all the symptoms indicative of death by vampyrism. The people, puzzled and eager to discover the vampyre delinquent, at last recollected that Arnold Paul had often related how, in the environs of Cassova, on the frontiers of Turkish Servia, he had been tormented and worried by a Turkish vampyre. This, according to the fundamental laws of vampyrism, should have converted Arnold into a vampyre in his grave; for all those who are passive vampyres on earth, invariably become vampyres active when they descend to the tomb. Arnold Paul had, however, always stated that he had preserved himself from contagion from the attacks of the Turkish vampyre by eating some of the earth of his grave and by embrocating himself with his blood. All precautions appeared, however, to be fruitless, for the inhabitants of Medreiga, on opening his tomb forty days after his death, found upon him all the undoubted indices of an arch-vampyre—his corpse ruddy, his nails elongated, his veins swelling with a sanguinary tide which oozed from his pores and covered his shroud and winding-sheet. The *hadagni* or bailiff of the place, "*qui étoit un homme expert dans le vampirisme*," proceeded to impale Vampyre Arnold through the heart; on which he sent forth horrid cries with all the energy of a living subject. His head was then cut off and his body burnt. Similar execution was then performed on the four deceased persons, the supposed victims of Vampyre Arnold's attacks, and the Heiduques fancied themselves in safety from these terrific persecutors. Five years afterwards, we read, the same fatal prodigies reappeared. During the space of three months, seventeen persons of different ages

and sexes died with all the old diagnostics—some without any visible malady—others after several days of languor and atrophy. Amongst others a girl named Stanoska, daughter of the Heiduque Stotuitzo, went one night to rest in perfect health, but woke in the middle of the night shrieking and trembling violently—she asserted that the son of the Heiduque Millo, who had died nine weeks before, had attacked her in her sleep and had nearly strangled her with his grasp. Heiduque Millo's son was instantly charged with vampyrism. The magistrates, physicians, and surgeons of the commune repaired to his grave, and found his body with all the usual characteristics of animation and imputrescence, but they were at a loss to understand from what channel he had derived his faculties. At last it was discovered that the exhausted vampyre Arnold Paul had strangled, not only the four deceased persons, but also a number of cattle, whose flesh had been plentifully eaten by Millo's son and other villagers. This discovery threw the Heiduques into fresh consternation, and afforded a horrid prospect of an indefinite renewal of the horrors of vampyrism. It was resolved to open the tombs of all those who had been buried since the flesh of the cattle had been consumed. Among forty corpses, seventeen were found with all the indubitable characteristics of confirmed vampyres. The bodies were speedily decapitated, the hearts impaled, and the members burnt, and their ashes cast into the river Teisse. The Abbé Dom. Calmet inquired into these facts, and found them all judicially authenticated by local authorities, and attested by the officers of the Imperial garrisons, the surgeon-majors of the regiments, and the principal inhabitants of the district. The *proces verbal* of the whole proceedings was sent, in January 1735, to the Imperial Council of War at Vienna, who had established a military commission to inquire into the facts. "*Proces verbaux*" and "*juridical authentications*" certainly are high-sounding things—but a sceptical critic has pretended that his Imperial Majesty's surgeon-major and counsellors of war might perchance be deceived in some respects; and admitting a great deal of what they attest to be true, that vampyrism is not a necessary inference from it—that Miss Stanoska was only a young lady of weak health and head, and strong imagination, who dreamt that young Mr Millo appeared to her in the night, and laid hold on her more rudely than was becoming in a deceased person, which frightened her into fits, and occasioned her death in a few days—that though she professed to be sucked, yet she could not show the wound, or the *dente labris notam* of the vampyre—that no person ever caught a vampyre in the fact of his sanguinary

osculations—and that, in this case, no purple aperture was exhibited on any of the individual throats, which the connoisseurs assert is the sure trace of the vampyre's embrace—that as for the fresh and vermilion corpses, allowing for the common exaggeration of two-thirds in the length of the period since their burial, their preservation might be easily accounted for, by certain antiseptic qualities in the soil, similar to those in the abbatial vaults at Toulouse and other places.

Reasonings of this sort by no means either satisfied the poor Hungarians and Poles, or the physicians and metaphysicians of Germany and Slavonia. The universities rang with the names of Stanoska and Arnold Paul; and while the book-stalls every day sent forth '*Cogitationes de Vampiris*,' '*Dissertationes de masticatione mortuorum*,' &c. the churchyards of Slavonia every day vomited forth fresh bloodsuckers to confound or support their theories. At Warsaw, a priest having ordered a bridle of a saddler, died before it was completed. A few days afterwards he appeared on horseback, clad in the costume in which priests are buried, and demanded his bridle of the saddler. "But you are dead, Monsieur le Curé," said the man. "I shall soon let you know the contrary," replied the reverend father, striking him a slight blow. The priest rode home to his grave, and in a few days the poor saddler was a corpse.—Sometimes the people ate bread steeped in the blood of a vampyre; and at the impalement a white handkerchief was dipped in his blood, and handed round to the multitude to suck as a preservative against future attacks. A device resorted to in Walachia, in order to detect suspected vampyres, has something in it singularly wild and poetical. The people would place a virgin youth, about the age of puberty, on a horse as yet *insolitus blando labori*, of a jet black colour, without a speck of white. The boy rode the horse about a suspected burying-ground, and over all the graves; and when the animal stopped short, and snorted, and refused, in spite of whip and spur, to set foot on any particular grave, it was an unerring indication that a vampyre lay within. The people immediately opened the tomb, and in general found it occupied by a fresh and well-fed corpse, stretched out like a person in a blooming and profound sleep. The Abbé Dom. Calmet, after a diligent inquiry into the subject, satisfied himself on every point, except the manner in which the vampyre escapes from his tomb without deranging the soil, and enters through doors and windows without opening or breaking them. Either the resuscitation of these bodies, says the Abbé, must be the work of the Deity, of the angels, of the soul of

the deceased, or of the evil demon. That the Deity cannot be the instrument is proved by the horrid purposes for which the vampyre appears—and how can the angels, or the soul, or the demon, rarely and subtilize gross corporeal substances, so as to make them penetrate the earth like air or water, pass through keyholes, stone walls, and casements?—even taking it for granted that their power would extend to make the corpse walk, speak, eat with a good appetite, and preserve its fresh looks. The only instance directly against Dom. Calmet, where the vampyre has been caught in *articulo resurgendi*, is one stated before one of the many vampyre special commissions appointed by the Bishop of Olmutz, at the beginning of the last century. The village of Liebava being infested, an Hungarian placed himself on the top of the church tower, and just before midnight (from midday to midnight are the vampyres' ordinary dinner-hours) saw the well-known vampyre issue from a tomb, and, leaving his winding-sheet, proceed on his rounds. The Hungarian descended and took away the linen—which threw the vampyre into great fury on his return, and the Hungarian told him to ascend the tower and recover it. The vampyre mounted the ladder—but the Hungarian gave him a blow on the head which hurled him down to the church-yard, and descended and cut off his head with a hatchet; and although he was neither burnt nor impaled, the vampyre seems to have retired from practice, and was never more heard of.

WICKEDNESS OF CARD PLAYING.

THAT cards are the devil's books is a common saying among serious people. How they were thought of two hundred and twenty years ago, by at least one reverend gentleman, will be seen in the following paragraphs taken from 'A Treatise against Dicing, Dancing, Plays, and Interludes,' by John Northbrooke, Minister, in which the writer gives a dialogue between Youth and Age:—

"Youth. What say you to carde playing? is that to be vsed and allowed among men?

"Age. I tell you plainly, it is euen almost as badde as the other: there is neuer a barrell better herring (as the prouerbe is); yet of the two euils it is somewhat the lesse, for that therein wit is more vsed, and lesse trust in chance and fortune (as they term it), and yet I say, therein is no laudable studie or good exercise. Dice playing is the mother, and carde playing is the daughter, for they draw both with one string all the followers thereof vnto ydlennesse, loytering, blaspheming, miserie, infamie, shame, penurie, and confusion.

"Youth. Is there as much craft and deceit at carde playing as there is at dice playing?

"Age. Almost none; I will not giue a straw to choose; they have such sleights in sorting and shuffling of the cardes, play at what game ye will, all is lost aforehand, especially if two be confederate to cousin the thirde.

"Youth. As how, I pray you?

"Age. Eyther by pricking of a carde, or pinching of it, cutting at the nicke; eyther by a bumbe carde finely vnder, ouer, or in the middes, &c., and what not to deceyue? And therefore to conclude, I say with that good father, St Cyprian, the playe at cardes is an inuention of the deuill, which he found out that he might the easier bring in ydolatrie amongst men. For the kings and coate cardes that we vse nowe were in olde times the images of idols and false gods which, since they that would seem Christians, haue changed into Charlemaine, Launcelot, Hector, and such lyke names, because they would not seem to imitate their idolatrie therein, and yet maintaine the play it self, the very inuention of Satan, the deuill, and woulde so disguise this mischeife vnder the cloake of such gaye names."

RUSSIAN MILITARY COLONIES.

THE military colonies of Russia are but little known in this country. Léon Renouard de Bussiére has written the best description we have seen of them. He makes the total of infantry and cavalry amount to 46,000 men, with a reserve of half that number, and supplies the following details, which more particularly apply to the infantry.

"The colonization of a regiment consists in placing it in perpetual cantonments in a territory which it never quits except for a campaign; and the other inhabitants are attached to the land of the colony, with an obligation to lodge and feed the soldiers, and successively furnish recruits. Everything in the colony receives a military stamp. The farmers or tenants are obliged to wear the uniform, are placed under the orders of old officers, and form what is called the colonised battalion. During their whole lives they remain subject to severe discipline, which extends to the direction of their agricultural labours. Their children are born soldiers; from the age of twelve they receive the musket and cartouch box. Afterwards they enter into the reserve, and are subsequently placed in the active battalions. Fifteen years' service completed, they return for five years into the reserve, and terminate their days as invalids of the colony, unless the inheritance of their fathers, or some new distribution of the land, cause them to become

cultivators or farmers. The male population of a colony is therefore composed of the following elements:

"1. *The farmers or cultivators properly so called.*

"2. *The cantonists.* The male children of a military colony are thus called. They receive gratuitous instruction in the schools established by the government; at the same time they are taught one or more trades, and are exercised in the use of arms. At eighteen the strongest are placed in the reserve, after having undergone an examination.

"3. *The soldiers of the reserve.* Each colonised regiment has a battalion of reserve, one half of which, in the event of war, is united with the active battalions, to enter upon service along with them. The cantonists terminate their military education in the reserve. They remain for two years, and, at the age of twenty, they enter the active battalions, and are fitted to be led at once to the field of battle.

"4. *The soldiers of the active battalions.* These are ready to march at the first signal. Their long term of service, and the education they have received as cantonists, make them from habit excellent soldiers. Their pay does not exceed eleven roubles a year; but they are clothed by the state, and the cultivators feed and lodge them. If they are the eldest sons of farmers, and their father dies, or if in any other regular way they are called to the succession of a tenant, they are entitled to their discharge, and enter immediately into possession of their farm. As long as they remain under their colours, and no war keeps them out of the territory of the colony, they serve as farm-servants to the tenants, and their labour repays the expense of their maintenance.

"5. *The invalids.* This denomination is bestowed on the old soldiers who have completed their service. They enjoy, to the exclusion of the other individuals of the colony, the privilege of allowing their beards to grow. Being lodged among their relations or the other farmers, they share their labours, and when age or infirmities have weakened their strength, the government provides for their maintenance.

"Finally, 6. A last class, without any particular denomination, comprises the old cantonists who have performed no military service on account of the weakness of their constitution or a superabundance of recruits. These people, thrown upon their own resources, work as farm-servants, or gain their livelihood by the trades which the government has taught them. The lot of the colonised troops appears far preferable to that of the other Russian soldiers. These last, from the time they are enrolled, are in some sort dead to their family; the soldiers of the colonies are not

torn from their domestic ties; they remain children, fathers of families, even citizens to a certain degree.

"As to the ancient serfs of the crown, who have been transformed into farmers or military cultivators, they have not been able as yet to accommodate themselves to their new position. With their affections crushed, these poor creatures grieve in silence. Ignorant simplicity made them value their former existence, and the recollection of this relative happiness, which was founded upon habit, never leaves them. Besides, they were subjected to the most severe labours during the first years; they cleared the ungrateful soil which was assigned to them, built villages, constructed bridges, roads, and canals. But these motives for regret and suffering will not exist for a second generation, whose lot will be less hard than that of the serfs of the crown. The farmers receive the title of free men, and this denomination, if it be ill suited to cultivators bowed down by military despotism, proves at least on the part of the government an intention rather to raise than to depress this class. The state supplies the farmers with a furnished habitation, six or eight hectares (from fifteen to twenty English acres) of land, cattle, and agricultural implements; and they pay neither property tax, nor capitation, nor rent. All that they acquire becomes at their death the property of their natural heirs; the farm which is intrusted to them may in some degree be considered as their patrimony. When age no longer allows them to superintend its labours, or when they feel their end approaching, they themselves nominate their successor. In this manner the possession of a farm may be perpetuated in the same family as a genuine property, and it is only in extreme cases, in consequence of a judicial sentence, that a tenant can be expelled from it.

"In general the power to which the cultivators are subjected is not arbitrary, as in the other villages of Russia. Thus, for example, none of them can be subjected to corporal punishment without legal forms being gone through, and in each locality the primary jurisdiction is intrusted to an elective magistracy, which exercises at the same time certain functions of police as well as of administration.

"Philanthropic precautions are taken to prevent indigence and misfortune. A magazine of wheat, maintained by the inhabitants at large, removes all danger of famine. The sick are taken care of gratuitously in a central hospital; orphans become the adoptive children of the colony, and the maintenance of the widows and the aged is provided for. A savings and trading bank ensures for the farmers the preservation of their gains, and in times of distress even advances money to them,

without interest, to the extent of five hundred rubles.

"The gratuitous instruction given to the children deserves the highest praise. Nothing is neglected to make them at once good agriculturists, well-instructed soldiers, and skilful artisans. In the schools, which are organised according to the methods of Lancaster and Pestalozzi, they are taught to read and write; they are exercised in music and singing, are taught the elements of arithmetic, painting, and geometry; and the precepts of religion are explained to them.

"Those who display most zeal and aptitude are placed in a school of sub-officers, and these children of moujiks (peasants) have before them a prospect of rising to the rank of officers, which they are entitled to after twelve years of irreproachable service. To sum up all, the internal management of the colonies procures for their inhabitants certain privileges and even positive rights. Liberty would there be sought for in vain; but, at least, order, justice, and the regular action of a paternal authority, are seen in the model of slavery. A stranger rarely obtains permission to visit these establishments; even Russians are admitted to them with difficulty."

Miscellaneous.

A REMORSE-STRICKEN JUDGE. — Judge Sewall, of Salem, presided during the trials for sorcery in 1692, and pronounced sentence of death on the victims. When the frightful excitement of superstition had passed away, and humanity resumed its empire, he was one of the first to regret the part which he had taken in his official situation. Sixteen years afterwards, one Sunday, at the close of public worship, Judge Sewall left his seat, and advanced towards the pulpit, where he handed up to the minister a paper which he requested him to read aloud to the congregation. It was an acknowledgment of sincere recantation and deep repentance for having, in his capacity of judge, sentenced to death so many innocent people. He stated that he now believed himself to have acted under a delusion, which seemed contagious, and which on its first appearance should have been checked rather than encouraged by those who had power and influence to repress it. He added, remorse had soon come over him, and that he had since done all in his power to benefit the families of those who had suffered by his sentence, and to make atonement for his misguided severity. He now humbly, and in the presence of the assembled church, expressed his sorrow and compunction, and tremblingly implored the forgiveness of his God. While this memorial was

read to the congregation (amongst which were many relatives of the victims of the year, 1792) Judge Sewall stood at the foot of the pulpit in a posture of the deepest sorrow and contrition, with his head bowed down, his eyes cast on the ground, and his hands crossed humbly on his breast.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE. — A great sensation has been created at Cambridge, by the expected appearance of her Majesty in that celebrated seat of learning. Queen Elizabeth honoured the University with a visit in 1563. On that occasion, tragedies, orations, disputations, and other academical exercises were recited before her Majesty. The list of honorary degrees then conferred comprises many distinguished names in the history of their age and country. The following are copied from the University annals of the time: — Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk; Edward Veere, Earl of Oxforde; Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwicke; Edward Manners, Earl of Rutland; Thomas Ratelif, Earl of Sussex; Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicestre; Edward Clinton, Lord High Admiral; William Howard, Lord Chamberlain; Henry Carew, Lord Hunsden; Sir William Cecil, Secretary; Sir Francis Knolls, Vice Chamberlain. Thomas Henage, John Ashley, Richard Bartue, William Cooke, Edmond Cooke, Esqrs. — "The celebrated Thomas Cartwright," Fuller says, "and Thomas Preston, then Fellow of King's College, afterwards Master of Trinity Hall, were appointed two of the four disputants in the Philosophy Act before the Queen. Cartwright had dealt most with the Muses, Preston with the Graces, adorning his learning with comely carriage, graceful gesture, and pleasing pronunciation. Cartwright disputed like a *great*, Preston like a *gentile* scholler, being a handsome man; and the Queen (upon parity of deserts) always preferred propensse of person in conferring her favours. Hereupon with her looks, words, and deeds, she favoured Preston, calling him her scholler, as appears by his epitaph in Trinity-hall Chappell, which thus beginneth —

"Conderis hoc tumulto Thoma Prestone scholarem
Quem dixit Princeps Elizabetha suum."

Insomuch for his good disputing and excellent acting in the tragedy of 'Dido,' she bestowed on him a pension of 20 lib. a year, whilst Cartwright received neither reward nor commendation, whereof he not only complained to his inward friends in Trinity College, but also after her Majesty's neglect of him, began to waste into divers opinions against her ecclesiastical government. But Mr Cartwright's followers, who lay the foundation of his disaffection in the discipline established in his conscience, not carnal discontentment, credit not the relation. Adding, more-

over, that the Queen did highly commend though not reward him. But soon after he went beyond the seas, and after his travel returned a bitter enemy to the hierarchy." Queen Elizabeth herself, on this occasion, delivered a Latin oration before the assembled members of the University, in the Senate House.

LORD ROSSE'S TELESCOPE.—We have already noticed the gigantic telescope now constructing by the Earl of Rosse. The Rev. Dr Robinson, the astronomer of Armagh, thus describes it:—"The speculum, which weighs three tons, has been ground to figure, and can be polished in a day. The tube, partly a cubic chamber where the mirror is fixed, and partly a cylinder of inch-deal, strongly hooped, and eight feet diameter at its centre, is complete. The massive centres on which the telescope is to turn are in their place, and the apparatus which supports the speculum, which is of wire, and of great weight, is also complete. The telescope is not to be turned to any part of the sky, but limited to a range of half an hour on each side of the meridian, through which its motion will be given by powerful clock-work, independent of the observer. For this purpose it stands between two pieces of masonry of Gothic architecture, which harmonises well with the castle. One of these pillars will sustain the galleries for the observer, and the other the clockwork and other machinery, one of which is finished, and the other nearly completed. An extremely elegant arrangement of counterpoises is intended to balance the enormous mass, so that a comparatively slight force only will be required to elevate or depress it, much of which is also completed, and Lord Rosse considers that a couple of months will be sufficient to have the instrument fit for trial. The aperture is six feet, and the focal length fifty-two feet."

The Gathcr.

Sir Robert Peel.—The following letter from Sir Robert Peel to Lady Bell, announcing the pension granted by her Majesty, deserves to be preserved as a model of delicacy and good feeling:—"Whitehall, September 4. Madam,—I have had great pleasure in recommending to her Majesty, that in consideration of the high attainments of your lamented husband, and the services rendered by him to the cause of science, a pension of one hundred pounds per annum for your life shall be granted to you, from that very limited fund which Parliament has placed at the disposal of the Crown for the reward and encouragement of scientific labours. This pension, small in amount as it necessarily is, will, perhaps, be acceptable to you as a public acknow-

ledgment, on the part of the Crown, of the distinguished merit of Sir Charles Bell. I have the honour to be, Madam, your faithful and obedient servant, ROBERT PEEL."

The Rev. Dr Wolff.—This gentleman has started for Constantinople, *via* Malta; from thence to proceed to Bokhara, to ascertain the fate of Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly. The Oriental Steam Packet Company gave the reverend gentleman a passage at one half the usual charge; for the subscription which is to determine the fate and (as many of the best informed believe) effect the release of two distinguished countrymen—officers who were thrown into prison so long since as 1838, when employed on public service—goes on but slowly; 500*l.* only was required, Dr Wolff's services being gratuitous, and yet little more than half that amount has been raised.

The Isthmus of Panama.—The long-meditated project of piercing the Isthmus of Panama, for the junction of the two great oceans, is daily more and more attracting the attention of nations. The French government has despatched a mining engineer of distinction, M. Napoléon Garella, to make a careful examination of the Isthmus, and report on the most eligible direction for a canal of communication between the Atlantic and Pacific.

Vegetable Nature of certain supposed Animals.—M. Decaisne, an eminent French botanist, has lately come to the conclusion that certain marine productions, supposed to be animals, and called by naturalists "chalk-bearing Polypes (*Polypiers calcifères*), are in reality sea-weeds. This view has been microscopically and chemically confirmed by M. Payen.

Extinguishing Fires.—A Vienna letter states that a M. Dietrich, of Gratz, has invented a powder which has the effect of extinguishing fire. Several very successful experiments are stated to have been made.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Tyro" will find an answer to his question in Moore's or Macdonald's 'Quotation Dictionary.'

"Henry and Julia" will not suit the 'Mirror' A mere whining love story does not please its readers.

"B.H."—The publication in question is not worth notice. Ill usage was to be expected in such a quarter.

Errata.—In the 'Run in the Highlands,' in the last number of the 'Mirror,' for "ride," read "raid;" for "ghosts," read "shoals;" for "Oihe," read "Ailsa;" for "Portland," read "Pentlands;" for "Campia," read "Campsie."

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